

2010-11 Legislative Issue Survey

For Local PTA Units and Councils

Each spring local PTA units, councils and individual members have the opportunity to submit issues that have state-wide importance for children. Use this survey as a tool to help develop unit or council issue positions, in order to inform your delegates to the 2010 Legislative Assembly. This survey is not meant to be used alone. Additional information from submitters, committee/board recommendations and staff analysis are provided in the 2010 Issue Guide. The Issue Guide has been posted to the Advocacy section of the WSPTA website.

To complete the survey, please review the materials, and then vote with a checkmark for the five issues that you consider of greatest importance to children during the upcoming year. If there is an issue that you believe should not be on the WSPTA platform place an "N" by that item. Your PTA's delegate(s) at Legislative Assembly will consider the results of this survey as well as ideas presented at assembly when voting on your PTA's behalf.

Issue Titles are in bold print, followed by Issue Statements. To save space, the common opening phrase for each issue was omitted from the survey. It reads: **WSPTA shall initiate and/or support legislation and/or policies that...**

Education Funding and Reform

Following up on Education Reform Efforts (HB 2261, HB 2776, and SB 6696): advance implementation of and/or provide funding for the realization of the basic education reform bills passed in 2009 and 2010, which describe our state's plan for developing and phasing in system improvements to meet the educational needs of students in the 21st century.

Fund Education First: fund education first. In order to implement Article IX of our state constitution which says "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders", education funding would be considered first in any budget process undertaken in the state legislature.

New Model for Teacher Compensation: lead to a new research-based state teacher compensation model that emphasizes rewarding teacher effectiveness in improving student learning.

Teacher "Reduction in Force" Policies: expand school district teacher "reduction in force" policies to include factors other than seniority, such as teacher effectiveness and the cohesiveness of school teams.

Curriculum and Instruction

Literacy Instruction: support the state-wide adoption of early phonological awareness screening, and the state-wide implementation of research-based, direct, explicit, and systematic literacy instruction in every classroom.

Math and Science Education: strengthen math and science education to include but not be limited to: improving teacher pre-service training and recruitment, developing an Elementary Mathematics Specialty endorsement, increasing teacher professional development and supporting implementation of math and science standards.

Physical Education and Health: strengthen physical education and health to include but not be limited to 1) designating physical education and health as a core subject in the state of Washington and 2) adding physical education and health to the list of core subjects in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act- formally known as No Child Left Behind.

Health and Safety

Safe Storage and Disposal of Prescription Drugs: address the problems created by the ease of youth access to prescription drugs by

	1) increasing public education about the importance of safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs in home and community and 2) requiring producers of prescription and over-the-counter medicines sold in Washington State to provide and pay for a statewide medicine return program in Washington encompassing safe collection, transportation and disposal of narcotic and non-narcotic prescription drugs.
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	School Breakfast and Lunch Programs: improve the quality and nutritional content of school breakfast and lunch programs.
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	Standardized School Zone Signage: mandate the establishment of posted speed zones on roadways adjacent and in proximity to schools and require counties and incorporated cities/towns to post warning signs utilizing the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) school icon.
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Local Decision-Making

	School Board Decision-Making: strengthen public meeting requirements regarding proposed changes in the attendance areas within school districts to include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Change proposal to be introduced during at least one public meeting, which includes a public hearing, prior to final decision-making 2) Change proposal to be on the agenda during at least one public board meeting prior to final decision-making 3) A public, recorded vote of the school board regarding proposed changes
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Proposed Resolution: Please consider this proposal separately, as it is not a part of the issue prioritization process. Resolutions, which typically remain on our platform for many years, can be added to our existing body of resolutions either at Legislative Assembly or Convention. They remain on our platform until the Resolutions committee recommends that they be amended or rescinded at either of these events.

Only the “resolved” or action portions of the resolution are included for survey purposes. For the complete resolution text, see the Issue Guide on the WSPTA website. Please vote for or against the proposal below by indicating “yes” or “no”.

	<p>Increasing Revenue to Support Our Legislative Principles:</p> <p><i>Resolved</i>, That the Washington State PTA will encourage reprioritization and efficiency in state spending to increase funds available for education, when these spending changes are consistent with our Legislative Principles, which include protecting and promoting the health, safety and welfare of children and youth; and be it further</p> <p><i>Resolved</i>, That the Washington State PTA will consider taking public positions in support of fair, equitable and ample revenue increases as a necessary component of fully funding education and meeting other needs of children and youth; and be it further</p> <p><i>Resolved</i>, That the Washington State PTA will consider all major legislation and initiatives that impact education funding as they emerge and take action consistent with our goal of achieving and maintaining ample education funding, and our Legislative Principles pertaining to protecting and promoting the health, safety and welfare of children and youth.</p>
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